



General Secretariat  
Media and Communication Sector

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**The speech of His Excellency Ambassador Ahmed  
Rashid Khattabi  
Assistant Secretary-General**

**Head of the Media and Communication Sector  
League of Arab States**

**At the Arab-Chinese Cooperation  
Forum on Radio and Television**

9 to 11 December 2023

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Chinese National Radio and Television Administration and the People's Government of Zhejiang Province for their warm hospitality and excellent organisation of the sixth edition of the forum.

The Arab-Chinese friendship relations, deeply rooted in history, have evolved from the ancient Silk Road to the contemporary Belt and Road Initiative. This initiative, launched in 2013, aims to enhance trade, international cooperation, and common development, including cultural and media exchanges.

I express my gratitude to all the participants from Arab countries and China in this forum, which has evolved into a prestigious platform for dialogue and the exchange of experiences and skills among audiovisual media officials and creators every two years. The primary objective is to fortify the ties of this enduring partnership and align with the demands of technological advancements in the media and digital landscape. Your active involvement has been instrumental in elevating the discourse and fostering collaboration in this dynamic and rapidly evolving field.

## **Honourable Guests,**

Nineteen years have passed since the launch of the Arab-Chinese Cooperation Forum, showcasing the strong commitment of the League of Arab States to consolidating multifaceted cooperation that supports mutual interests. Media, especially radio and television, serves as essential tools for close interaction with the public, playing a crucial role in enriching strategic plans, particularly in the development field. Accurate, transparent, and credible media performance is essential for achieving ambitious development goals.

Radio and television continue to be influential media with a wide following, necessitating increased professional cooperation to develop human resources, train media competencies, and leverage new technologies, including artificial intelligence techniques and the mobile Internet.

In this context, we anticipate greater programmatic exchange, broadcasting of series and documentaries about Arab countries and China, and encouragement of joint production to deepen the bond between the two ancient civilisations. The authenticity of the two civilisations is evident in the writings of historians, geographers, and travellers, prime among whom is Moroccan traveller Ibn Batuta, who visited China, including Hangzhou, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The recent conflict in the Gaza Strip underscored the biased stance of certain Western media components, repeatedly emphasising the Israeli narrative of self-defence while overlooking the legitimate Palestinian right to national independence, freedom, and dignity. The destruction of facilities, the targeting of civilians, including journalists, and the sacrifice of over 70 journalists in their pursuit of truth are blatant violations of international humanitarian law that mandates the protection of journalists.

In conclusion, I express my sincere thanks to the organisers of this forum, applauding the earnest efforts of all partners from ministries and media institutions to develop Arab-Chinese relations in various media fields, particularly in radio and television. I wish the forum complete success in its endeavours.